

# DAILY HEARING AID CHECK WORKSHEET

## Objectives of this activity:

Participants will gain confidence in handling hearing aids and troubleshooting and in conducting the 6-sound test..

## Exercise A - 6-Sound Test

When this test is done daily with the child, it will help you to determine how well the student and hearing aid are functioning.

1. Sit facing the “student”, about three feet apart. (The student would be wearing the hearing aid[s].)
2. Cover your mouth with a piece of paper.
3. Say each of the following sounds: ah, oo, ee, sh, s, m. Vary the order that you say to them each day.
4. The student will respond according to their abilities. Young children may drop a block into a bucket when they hear a sound, or raise their hand. This also helps to teach them appropriate responses for audiological testing. Later, they may repeat back the sound that they heard.
5. You will learn what the baseline is for each student when they are three feet away, when their hearing aid is working well and when the battery is fresh. Not all students will be able to hear every sound.
6. Do the 6-sound test daily. If a student’s hearing differs from their baseline, check the hearing aid and battery more carefully.
7. If the aid seems to be working well (see hearing aid check below), the student’s poor performance may be due to fluid in the middle ear. Further observations may warrant notifying the student’s family if you suspect fluid.

## Exercise B - Hearing Aid Check

1. If you have a child in your program who wears hearing aids, you should record and keep basic information in case one is lost. Record the following information for the hearing aid you are working with:
  - brand/model \_\_\_\_\_
  - serial number \_\_\_\_\_
  - battery Type \_\_\_\_\_(You would also note whether this aid was worn in the left or right ear.)
2. Locate and check off the various parts of the hearing aid:
  - ☐ battery compartment
  - ☐ connector
  - ☐ volume control
  - ☐ O-T-M switch (Off-Telephone - Microphone or “on”)
  - ☐ microphone
  - ☐ body

3. Look at the hearing aid. Are there any cracks, holes or tears? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Take the battery out of its compartment. Note the direction it should face when you will put it back in. Use the battery tester to make sure the battery is fresh. If it is not good, ask for a new one.
  - ☐ The battery is good.
  - ☐ The battery is not fresh; need to replace
5. Insert the battery. Make sure it is in the right way, with the + end matching the + on the hearing aid. Close the compartment. Do not force it to close. If it is difficult to close, the battery may be incorrectly inserted.
  - ☐ battery inserted; compartment closed
6. Turn the switch to “O” for off. If there is a volume control, **turn it to the lowest number**. Then, turn the switch to “M” for microphone (or “on”).
  - ☐ hearing aid is on; volume is at lowest setting
7. Make sure the volume is at its lowest setting. Put the stethoscope in your ears. Attach the end of the stethoscope to the ear mold or tubing of the hearing aid. Slowly, turn the volume up louder. Say the sounds, “ah, oo, ee, sh, s, m”. Are the sounds clear?
  - ☐ sounds are clear
  - ☐ sounds are distorted

If the sound doesn't get louder as the volume is turned up, make sure the switch is on “M”, not “T” and make sure the battery is fresh. Look for wax or dirt in the earmold and tubing. Clean with a pipe cleaner if necessary. If the battery compartment is corroded, clean it gently with a pencil eraser. If there is moisture in the tubing, use a blower to blow it out.

If the hearing aid goes on and off, has a loud, scratchy sound or rattles when gently shaken, the audiologist should be notified and the aid will probably need to be repaired.

If there is feedback (high pitched squealing sound) when you put a hearing aid on a child, remove the aid and cover the opening of the canal with your finger. Turn the volume up and listen for feedback. If there is feedback, the aid may need to be checked. If there is no feedback, the earmold may be too small for the child.